



Norene Collins has reopened the popular Sidebar Café' in the basement of the Linn County Courthouse. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Sidebar Café reopens in Linn County Courthouse

ALBANY — If you've been craving a half-pound "Slammer" burger or a "Time Served" deli sandwich, from Nreener's Sidebar Café', your wait is over.

After being closed for more than a year due to COVID-19 restrictions, Norene Collins has reopened the popular eatery in the basement of the Linn County Courthouse and is expanding its already popular menu, plus offering delivery throughout the downtown business district.

Lane Russell of Albany is heading up the staff of three, but Collins said if the café' proves as popular as it was before the closure, she expects to expand the staff.

"We're fortunate to be able to offer catering from here, so that will help me keep prices down in the café'," Collins said.

The café' will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and delivery items will be available until 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"In addition to our burgers, we're offering deli sandwiches and salads and a daily homemade soup menu," Collins said. "Our breakfast burrito is always popular and we're expanding our grab and go items."

Collins said she is developing an on-line ordering system or people can call 541-967-3877.

Beginning April 21, she will also offer Mr.Beast Burger, an app only "ghost kitchen."

"It's a virtual restaurant," Collins said. "People can order online with an app and it will be delivered."

Wings will also be on that menu.

The breakfast menu includes everything from a bagel with cream cheese for just \$2.50 to a breakfast burrito called "Summoned" for \$7.

For lunch, there is everything from a salad called "Not Guilty" to the half-pound "Slammer" for \$8 or a pastrami sandwich called "The Bailiff" for \$8.

Sides include crinkle cut fries or tater tots for \$3 or onion rings for \$4. Beverages start at \$1 for bottled water to \$3 for an energy drink.

"I'm excited to reopen," Collins said. "We had a good business going and people really appreciated having the café' here."

Linn County Administrative Officer Darin Lane said he was pleased the café' is reopening.

"It's great," Lane said. "Our employees have been wanting this for some time."

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